

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a user interface for controlling devices that are currently connected to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

for at least one of said devices:

(a) obtaining information directly from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, wherein each device contains device information including user control interface description for user interaction with that device;

(b) dynamically generating a top page user interface description based at least on the directly obtained device information, the top page user interface description including one or more references associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each reference in the top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said device information contained in said devices currently connected to the network; and

(c) when one of the at least one electronic link in the top page user

interface description is selected by a user, using the selected link to access the associated device and use the control interface description contained in the selected device to generate a device user interface for user interaction with that selected device.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein one of the at least one electronic link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the device information in an associated device.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) of generating the top page user interface description further includes the steps of associating a hyper-text link with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in an associated device.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that each link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each associated device.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the step (b) further includes the steps of generating the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing one of the at least one electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the one link in the top page is user activated the activated link is used to access the associated device and retrieve control interface description contained in the associated device to generate and display a

device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that associated device.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A network system for performing a service,
comprising:

 a physical layer, wherein the physical layer provides a communication medium
that can be used by connected devices to communicate with each other;

 one or more of the connected devices storing device information including a user
control interface description for user interaction with that device;

 an agent in at least one device for:

 (a) obtaining the device information directly from one or more of the
devices currently connected to the network;

 (b) generating dynamically a top page user interface description based
at least on the obtained device information, the top page user interface description
including one or more references associated with the device information in each
of said devices, such that the reference includes at least one electronic link
providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said device
information contained in said devices; and

 (c) when one of the at least one electronic link in the top page user
interface description is selected by a user, using the selected link to access the

control interface description contained in the associated selected device to then generate a device user interface for user interaction with that selected device.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10 wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that one of the at least one electronic link comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the device information in an associated device.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent further associates a hyper-text link in the top page user interface description with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in an associated device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein said

information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that each of the at least one electronic link in the user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each associated device.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10, wherein the agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing one of the at least one electronic link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the one link is user activated the activated link is used to access the associated device and retrieve control interface description contained in the associated device to generate and display a device user interface based on the

retrieved control interface associated for user interaction with that corresponding device.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The network system of claim 10 further comprising means for generating at least one top page user interface by: using each link in the top page user interface description to access the device information in each associated device, and generating the top page user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A network system for performing a service, comprising:

a physical layer, wherein the physical layer provides a communication medium than can be used by connected devices to communicate with each other;

multiple devices connected to the physical layer, one or more of said multiple devices storing device information including a user control interface description for user interaction with that device, and one or more of said multiple devices each including an agent for:

(a) obtaining information directly from one or more of the devices currently connected to the network, said information including device information; and

(b) generating dynamically a top page user interface description based

at least on the obtained information, the top page user interface description including one or more references associated with the device information of each of said devices, such that the reference includes at least one electronic link providing direct access from the top page user interface description to said device information contained in said devices; and

(c) when one of the at least one electronic link in the top page user interface description is selected by a user, the selected link is used to access the control interface description contained in the associated selected device to then generate a device user interface for user interaction with that selected device.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates a top page user interface description such that one of the at least one electronic link in the top page user interface description comprises a pointer from the top page user interface description to at least the device information in an associated device.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates a top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent further associates a hyper-text link in a top page user interface description with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network, such that each hyper-text link provides access from the top page user interface description to the device information in an associated device.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein said information in each device comprises an HTML page for user interaction with and/or control of that device.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein the device information in each device includes device identification information for that device.

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates the top page user interface description such that each of the at least one electronic link in the top page user interface description provides direct access to at least the user control interface description in each associated device.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The network system of claim 20, wherein each agent generates the top page user interface description such that the top page user interface description further includes device data corresponding to each device based on the information obtained from each device, the device data providing a link to the user control interface description in each device, such that when the link is user activated the activated link is used to access the associated device and retrieve control interface description contained in the associated device to generate and display a device user interface based on the retrieved control interface description, for user interaction with that associated device.